IN CHURCH.

"What worship yet" the preacher said
The rest I did not hear.
But round the room I looked instead,
At ease and that an reverent head.
All saint like and austere,
"What do you worship now?" I thought.
And fancy straight the question caught,
And strange sights did appear.

All veils were dropped, and clear to view
All hearts were open thrown;
A shame it were to whisper you
What then I saw; if all were true
'Twere self-accusing moan.
Such he rts none ever saw before,
But all at once I looked no more—
A. K. L. saw my own.

—Bradford Terry in the Sunday School Times.

A MYTHICAL MONSTER.

About four years ago I became the husband of a very charming girl in one of our eastern seaboard cities. In my marriage with Mabel Lane all the conventionalities were fulfilled. She was a few years my junior—modest, domestic—and this, I sincerely believe her first attachment. Even our complexions presented the proper antithesis, she being a perfect blonde and I dark brunette. I loved her sincerely and was in comfortable circumstances, and on our wedding-day I saw no reason why our married life should not be bathed in perennial sunshine.

Such would probably have been the case had it not been for an unfortunate defect in my disposition. I may as well state here that before our marriage I had devoted myself pretty largely to that agricultural pursuit known as sowing wild oats. I cannot say that I was vicious, but I loved the company of good fellows. Late hours had a peculiar fascination for me, and the pop of a champagne cork fired in me all the sport of a cannon is said to thrill a war-horse. These things, which were never counted more than 'wildness' in a single man, I suddenly found became heinous vices and utter depravity in a married one. Like many another I had difficulty in adjusting myself to the changed condition of affairs, and there the trouble began.

So it was that after spending all my evenings faithfully at home for a month I began to drift back into the old routine and pleaded an increase of business to Mabel as an excuse for later hours. I did this gradually. Now and then qualms of conscience assailed me over force of habit, and I would beentirely domestic and devoted for several days at a time. Then I would backslide and come home at 1. It was not that my affection for my wife diminished. On the contrary, it increased, as never was a man happy as when in her company, but I think it must have been a strain of old Bohemia in my veins that drew me with a subtle force back to the boys.

All this, though, was as nothing compared to the actual downfall that began one night in autumn. I still shudderingly, hesitatingly. As I entered our gate an unusual light warned me that Mabel waited for me, and I shut my light with the door in caution and contrition as I look at my watch and saw it was after 12. I found her in tears. "Frank!" she sobbed, "I am very unhappy!"

"Not unhappy with me, are you, Mabel?" I asked.

"No, no!" she said, "but unhappy because I am without you so much. I am sure it can not be business that keeps you out at these awful hours. O, Frank, tell me, what was it kept you so late?"

"Well, Mabel," I answered, feeling it useless to resort to the old story, "the fact is I met a friend of mine who is something of a bore, and he held me in conversation for a couple of hours."

"Who was he?"

"Bancroft," I said desperately, using the first name that came into my mind, "a fellow named George Bancroft."

"What does he do?"

I felt that I was in for it and told her he was the accountant at Reed's tea-store. There were a few more tears, but her suspicions were lulled and peace was declared. I went to sleep, I blush to say it, with a sort of guilty satisfaction that I had done a smart thing. Little did I dream of the precipice on which I was treading.

How intricate, how manifold and multiplied they were can be inc ined when I say that at the end of two years Mabel was still unsuspicious.

She had however, developed a violent dislike, growing into an utter a hhorrence, of the man. This was engendered by a single remark, as I speak, that happened to take. One night the first pencilings of dawn were showing in the skies when I returned home. I had not intended to stay so late. I recoiled with a sudden and humiliating force that I was a brute to leave a young girl alone, unprotected, as young and afraid through the long night. I felt ashamed, mortified, and above all alarmed for I was well aware Mabel awaited me. With a bounding heart I entered the house. Mabel was in bed, and turned her head all lily white looking at me as I spoke cold. I felt intuitively that she was e yng. At that instant any plan, any lie, no matter how black, that would have relieved the poor girl's distress I would have seemed noble to me. So it was with no pang of conscience that I sank into a chair and began to speak in a low voice: "O, Mabel, if you had seen what I have seen you would be sick at heart!"

"What was it, Frank?" she asked with instant curiosity, sitting up in bed.

This was the effect I had calculated upon, and for a moment I said nothing as if too much overcome to speak. Then in a low voice I continued:

"Bancroft is in jail."

"O, Frank!" she cried, her eyes suddenly dilating, what has he done?"

"Mabel I was ex ecting the question. I had to have time to think.

"You know how Bancroft is when he is drinking. I was with him."

"Yes," she replied, e xcitly, "very quarrelsome."

Exactly. Well, we were playing a game of billiards in a club. I had noticed that he was under the influence of liquor, but he got into a q uite row with a colored man, a very perfect stranger, and took his billiard cue and—

"Killed the minister" shrieked Mabel.

"No, thrust it down his throat and broke it off"

She flopped her ears and I paused for breath.

"Of course," I went on, "she was arrested and I went out to get bail for him."

"What business is that of yours?" asked Mabel, sharply.

"For your sake, dear," I replied. "Although no party to the affair I realized how the linking of my name with it would pain and mortify my little girl. I was willing to sacrifice my pride and ask some of my friends to go on Bancroft's bond to hush the matter up."

"You dear, old darling," said Mabel, impetuously, "can you forgive me?"

I forgave her, and, assuming the mien of a martyr, went to bed. From that moment, however, she regarded Bancroft as my bad angel, and hated him with all the cordiality of indignation unmingled.

Meantime Bancroft had commenced to haunt me. From being naturally frank and open himself, I became preternaturally vigilant and alert, fearful each instant that I would betray myself and realizing that each day put me further from the possibility of an explanation. I grew precocupied, moody, morose. My nerves, quivering under the tension, were always on edge. I looked scared and guilty. The very name of Bancroft was hateful to me, and when my wife harped upon it I felt sure I should faint, and if I did not get away. He had become astonishingly real to me, and I felt my personality leaving me as I lived till the teacher was gone. When I inquired if my dishpan was not given, there reply was that I did not ask for the dishpan; she asked for "the dishpan of spirit" (the devil), and I assure you no Indian woman heard that story without laughing heartily. I was a changed man, meaning to ask for a tub, asked for a young man, and, though to her face she kept her countenance, she always cried over the mistake several times since.

When one of the ministers from the east attending one of the meetings went up to a group of Indians who could not speak or understand a word of English, and tried to enter into conversation, of course there was no response. He said to me as I came up: "Why do they look so solemn?"

I simply interpreted what he said to the Indians, and all laughed and said: "We did not know what he said, why should we laugh?" It does not seem to occur to those asking the question why they do not laugh, that they have little to laugh at in the presence of white men. They are taught to stand us or our ways. Indian children are in the house taught and orderly, and they sit and listen to hear older people talk, and if anything is said that is very amusing, so much so that they feel that they cannot control themselves, they put their hands on their mouths and run outside to laugh. Men will laugh merrily and quietly, and now and then you may hear an old, old woman laugh long and loud; if so, some relative will say aside. "Hear how loud she laughs, she is a child again," and all laugh. They are very sociable people, and around the camp-fire one may hear merry stories and fables, hear many old war songs and nursery rhymes.

The Cities of the World.

It will hardly be thought that there are not on the whole globe fifty cities containing 200,000 people; but such is the fact, and any one may satisfy himself of it by consulting a geographical dictionary. It would seem at first that there must be at least 200 cities of 200,000 population, but there is not one-fourth of the number. Of these Great Britain has about 9; France, 5; Italy, 4; Germany, about 5 or 6; China, some 9; India, 8 or 9, and the United States, according to the latest census, 8 or 9. It is some what remarkable that a comparatively 100 years old, should have as many (if not more) large cities as the oldest lands; but it is not improbable that before another century, we shall count as large a number of cities of 200,000 inhabitants as there are now in the whole world. New York ers may look with a certain disdain upon towns of that site, but when they remember that two thirds are, their disdain should be modified, if not converted into respect. We are all inclined to think that old and famous capitals, like Cordova, Granada, Cadiz, Florence, Venice, Padua, Verona, Bologna, Warsaw, Cracow, Antwerp, Ghen, Rotterdam, Leyden, Leipsic, must be very large, though they really have no more than from 70,000 to 140,000 or 150,000 people. The cities that can lay claim to 100,000 population and upwards, are perhaps about 156, and these include many of those which at first sight we should suppose contained two or three times the number. This plant is very little after all. Its millions are not near so numerous as it would seem that they ought to be, and the bulk of these do not come within our idea of civilization, any more than we come within their idea of it. The more we know of our small world, the more insignificant it appears.

The Lovely Princess of Wales.

Mrs. Sherwood (M. E. W. S.) writes from London: The Princess of Wales is really the most beautiful woman I have seen of late years. There used to be as handsome women formerly, but I have not seen one so handsome for twenty years. She has not a wrinkle or a sign of age; her lips red, her teeth perfect, her features commanding, her expression that mysterious thing-we call beauty, her smile enchanting. She was dressed in lilac, and it became her magnificent loveliness. That such a woman can be the mother of a grown-up son is preposterous. Her daughters are very plain. How the Prince of Wales can see beauty in any one but his own wife seems unaccountable. The Princess Christian, whom I have met at the house of a friend, and who is a most unattractive, age and ugly, cordial woman, with much good humor, is devoted to the Princess of Wales. She encouraged me in my progress past royalty with a cordial smile and kind look of recognition. She was in black and scarlet, and looked well.

I had the honor of being presented to Her Royal Highness at the last drawing-room, and will give you a description of her dress. It was of the most exquisite lilac moire antique, the waist and petticoat of lilac terry velvet, a train of cream crepe de chine, handsomely embroidered in various shades of flowers, lined and trimmed with lilac and coral roses. The skirt was looped with tulle and embroidered with flowers. The train was lined also with lilac feathers. Her headdress was a tiara of diamonds, feathers and veil, her ornaments diamonds. She wore the order of Victoria and Albert, the Crown of India, St. Catherine of Russia, St. John of Jerusalem, the Royal Family of Russia and Danish family order. Next her stood the Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, in a dress and train of black-striped velvet and satin, the train lined with scarlet satin and trimmed with jet.

It should be remarked here that people appear in court costume in a long and always wear scarlet. Her headdress was a tiara of diamonds, feathers, and her ornaments emeralds and diamonds. Next her stood the Ladies of the Electori and Alberta, the Crown of India, St. John of Jerusalem, and the Royal Family of Russia and Danish family order. Next her stood the Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, in a dress and train of black-striped velvet and satin, the train lined with scarlet satin and trimmed with jet.

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